

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 18, 2007, the Examiner noted that claims 1-22 were pending, and rejected claims 1-22. Claims 1, 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18 have been canceled and claims 2, 5-6, 9, 12-13, 16, 19-20 have been amended and claims 2, 5-9, 12-16, and 19-22 are pending under consideration. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

TRAVERSAL OF REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 9-13, 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Taniguchi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 2 recites the feature that audio data are MPEG audio data and features of "a scale factor extraction unit extracting a scale factor included in the frame;
a calculation unit calculating an evaluation function from the extracted scale factor;
a control unit comparing a calculation result of the calculation unit with a prescribed threshold value and controlling not to transmit a corresponding frame to said speed conversion unit for speed converting if the calculation result is smaller than the threshold value."

Independent claims 9 and 16 correspond generally to independent claim 2 and recite similar features in a method form and a computer-readable storage medium form, respectively.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the asserted citation does not teach at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 2.

Thus, Taniguchi et al does not anticipate independent claims 2, 9 and 16.

Taniguchi et al describes a data format and a compression principle of MPEG audio data. Taniguchi et al, however, is a state of the art at the time of the present invention. Taniguchi et al does not disclose a frame thinning out process of silent sections based on a scale factor before decoding. Taniguchi et al discloses a thinning out process based on a frame counter. However, in Taniguchi et al, a speech speed conversion process is realized by a superposition of audio data after decoding as shown in Fig. 3(b).

It is further submitted that none of the asserted citations teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 2, 9, and 16.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 2, 9, and 16 patentably define the present invention over the citation of record.

TRAVERSAL OF REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7-8, 14-15 and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Taniguchi et al in view of Okada et al.

Claims 7-8 depend from claim 2. Claims 14-15 depend from claim 9. Claims 21-22 depend from claim 16. The claims 7-8, 14-15, and 21-22 should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

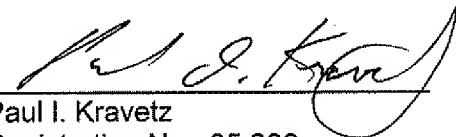
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:


Paul I. Kravetz
Registration No. 35,230

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501